PETITION

OF THE

Six Counties of South-*Wales*, and the County of *Monmouth*,

Preferred to the

PARLIAMENT

Of the Common-wealth of

ENGLAND.

For a fupply of Miniſters, in lieu of thoſe that have been Ejected.

Printed in the Year, 1653.

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To the Supreme Authority, the Parliament of the Common-wealth of *England*,

The Humble Petition *of the Inhabitants of* South-Wales *and County of* Monmouth.

Sheweth

1 THat your Petitioners cannot but with all humblenes acknowledge your Honours cõstant care in providing for the supply of their spirituall neceſſities, & the advancement of the Goſpel of Chriſt, and particularly in paſſing the Act of the 22th. of *Feb.* 1649. intituled an: *Act for the propagation of the Goſpell in* Wales, ſo much really intended by your Honours, which filled the hearts of your Petitioners, and all the Inhabitants of *Wales* with joy & gladnes, in hopes to find the fruites thereof accordingly: Nevertheleſs your Petitioners humbly ſhew, that ſince the paſſing of the ſaid Act, all or moſt of the Miniſters of *South Woles*, together with the County of *Munmouth*, have been (and ſtand) ejected from their Benefices: and but few or none of the ſaid reſpective Counties have been ſupplyed with any competent number of Godly able Teachers to offi-

ciate in the roomes of the outed Miniſters: Neither hath there been provided any convenient number of godly Schooles for the education of Children, and advancement of learning, as was intended by your Honors, and the true purport of the ſaid Act, as they humbly conceive, there being not above four or five Itinerary Teachers in ſome of the ſaid Counties appointed, and approved of to teach the Goſpell; whereas ſome of the ſaid Counties do conſiſt of above ſix ſcore Pariſhes, and the leaſt of fifty or three-ſcore, many whereof have at leaſt two thouſand Soules.

2 That ſome perſons deriving Authority from the ſaid Act, have for theſe two years laſt paſt, received and diſpoſed of all the profits of the Tithes of Church-livings, and all other Benefices and Impropriations ſequeſtered within the ſaid ſix Counties of *South-Wales*, and County of *Monmouth*, which are annually worth twenty thouſand pound or thereabouts; Out of which, little hath been converted towards the propagation of the Goſpell, or accompted for to the State.

3 That for want of the due execution of the ſaid Act, your Petitioners, together with the ſaid Inhabitants, indure a Famine of the Word of God; Children are not bred up in the inſtruction and information of the Lord; The vaſt Revenue of the outed Miniſters are ſet out at extraordinary undervalues; the Churches are in moſt places ſhut up, and the Fabrick thereof ready to fall to the ground for want of repair: Neither can the Inhabitants take

notice

notice of your Honours Acts, Edicts, and Proclamations, (wherein the publike welfare, the liberty and safety of their Persons and Estates are concerned) for want of a fitting number of Teachers in each County to publish the same.

Your Petitioners therefore, out of their duty to God, the preservation of the Souls of the Inhabitants of their Countrey, the Commonwealths Interest, and the earnest desire they have that your Honors most pious intentions expressed in the said Act may be accordingly observed, do hold themselves bound in conscience, out of Christian and Soul-saving necessity to present the Premises to your Honors consideration, earnestly beseeching your Honors in pursuance of your wonted Zeal and unfeigned affection to Gods Glory, and the increase of true Religion, Learning, and Piety, to take such a course for the future supply of their respective Counties with such convenient number of Godly able Teachers, and for provisions of Schooles and Nurseries of Learning and Religion there; As also to call to account such persons as have received the profits of the said Tithes, Church-Livings and Prebends, and the sequestered Impropriations, as to your Honors grave wisedom shall seem meet.

And your Petitioners shall (as in duty bound) most humbly and heartily pray &c.

A Letter of Mr. *Valvasor Powell* against the said Petition: with a sober Reply thereunto.

Dear and Honored Sir,

HAving intelligence by your Letter, and more particularly by a printed Petition *from* South-Wales, *that the condition of our Country, and the faithfullest Instruments therein, are misrepresented with you, insomuch that I hear from good hands, that credit some of our best friends begin to give to false Reports, and thereby countenance prophane and faithless men, to raise Reports, and print abhominable Lyes, falsities and scandalls against Godly persons and their honest proceedings; I have for the satisfaction of my self and many friends that question the same, endeavoured to know the Truth in the manifest particulars objected, especially in that* South-Wales Petition, *and that I might be certain of the Truth, got coppies of all the Commissioners proceedings upon the Act for* Propagation of the Gospell, *I also conversed with severall both of* North-Wales *and* South-Wales, *and I know most of the Commissioners, and have objected against some of their proceedings my self, and upon the whole I must say this as in the presence of God, before whom I doe not, and dare not lye, That,*

1. *I doe believe that since the graunting of the aforesaid Act for* Propagation of the Gospell, *God hath bee-*

been much glorified, many hundreds (if not thousands) have been converted in Wales, *much of the power and practice of Godlines set up, and much impiety and wickedness suppressed.*

2 *For the Commissioners they are most of them really Godly, and all of them faithfull to the Parliament from the beginning.*

3 *That they have acted judiciously and conscientiously according to the Act as far as they discerned, and that they have not taken into their own hands any of the* Revenue, *as I believe they will be able not only to shew, but sufficiently to swear, for I cannot hear that ever any part of the money came to their hands.*

4 *Of all the men which they put out, I know not any in these six Counties of* North-wales *that have the power of Godlinesse, and very few the form thereof, or that have been firm and faithfull to the Parliament, but most of them un-preaching Curates, or scandalous in their lives, or having given that cursed Oath called* Capells *Oath, and I believe this will be made appear, as Mr.* White *did, to the satisfaction of all.*

5 *Concerning Ministers and School-masters, not to mention or meddle with* South-Wales, *who are now returning an exact accompt which will satisfie all honest men and shame their* Adversaries, *this is a true account for* Northwales, *that there 51 or thereabouts, old Ministers ejected, there are of approved Ministers now sent out and setled about thirty two, whereof twenty four at least are University men (and some of the rest good scholars) for* School-masters

there

there are twenty nine under present pay; nay whereas some report that all the Ministers *are cast out, take this for a truth, for I heard it from a godly able Minister of* Flint-*shire this day, that there are not two Ministers cast out by vertue of this Act in all* Flint-*shire.*

Lastly, For the Tithes, they were and are tendred unto the Parishioners, *but some are either so Malignant or fearfull of their priest, that they would not, nor dare not to take them in severall parishes, they are set to the owners at a reasonable rate, but the value of them, because things are so cheap and the people much disaffected thereto, much fallen; these things will be affirmed to be true, and I will ingage my self upon the word of a Christian and a* Gospell *Minister to maintain the same.*

Yours in the Lord *Value for Powel*

The Answer to the preceding Letter.

Sir,

IN the *front* of one of the *Diurnals* lately come to my hands, I found a *frontlesse* Letter or invective of yours against that much-talked-of Petition of *South-Wales*, that had been long since presented to the Parliament, wherein you charge the said Petition and Petitioners with *abominable lies, falsities and scandals against godly men and their proceedings.*

I. This is boisterous and bold language, and these words are not like those of St. *Paul*, the words

of

of Truth and Soberneſs. If the Petitioners had been ſo puſillanimous and ſo poor-ſpirited as to have deſerted their Petition, as you did (by your menaces) indeavour to make them; or if they had failed to juſtify and make good the Charge therin contained, you might have had ſome cauſe to be thus violent, and to ſpend your uſuall Artillery, *even bitter words*: but ſince (maugre all oppoſition and diſcouragements) they ſtand to what they have don, and like worthy conſcientious Gentlemen doe proſecute their pious deſires and intentions declared in the ſaid Petition, I hope all ſober heads will *ſuſpend* their judgements touching that Pet: while you *ſpend* yours ſo freely, and rather incline to believe, that a Pet: proceeding from 7 whole Counties, and ſubſcribed by above 15000 hands of perſons *engaged* and well affected to the preſent State and government, was not framed and proſecuted without very good grounds and reaſons. Act. 26. 15.

But for the *honeſt proceedings*, you ſpeak of, we have but your word, and ſingle teſtimonie for their honeſtie as yet; the generall exclamations, and *great thoughts of heart*, among the Inhabitants of thoſe reſpective Counties, ſeem to me, to argue the Contrary. And ſome of your own Commiſſioners that went along with you a good while in the ſimplicitie of their hearts, and who were not ſo ſharp ſighted as to ſee into the bottom of your deſigns at firſt, have now deſerted you, and joyned with the Petitioners, in preſenting the ſaid Petition, to the Parliament: and others of their Colleagues, that did not goe along with it to the Houſe, went

along with it in their hearts, and *wished it good luck in the name of the Lord.*

2 But to justifie these *proceedings* further, you tell us of the great paines you have taken to *converse with the Commissioners both of* North-wales, *and* South-wales, *and to examine their proceedings*: we can bear you witnesse that you took no small pains in travelling those Countreys like a *Spirituall post*, or a *Knight errant*, to encounter this *terrible Petition*, perswading some by fair words, to call back their hands from that *lying Petition* (that was your style) and like another *Saul*, *breathing out threatnings* against others, menacing them with sequestration & ruin. This petition tossed you much in the saddle, and made you sit very uneasie, ever since it came to light; which shewes that all is not well and sound in your proceedings, nor so *honest* as you seeme to make them: all is not gold that glisters, nor are all Saints that arrogate that name and Title.

3 In the next period, you present your friends with the fruits of your labours & *Apostolicall* excursions in to those Countreys: some *hundreds and thousands of people have been Converted in Wales*, since that new Engin for the propagation of the gospell was brought in thither. *Converted?* these were your suggestions of old to the Parliament that your Countrey men were no better then *Pagans* and *Infidells*, and stood in need of being *converted* to the Faith: But let me tell you Sir, that the Inhabitants of those parts, were neither *Jewes*, *Turkes*, nor *Pagans*, before your *Holines* came thither, but were as good Christians

Christians (every whit) as they are now, and I may say better: For they had Sermons far more frequently, and used to observe the *Lords-Day* with more piety and reverence than now they do: for now they make it but a *Brutish Sabbath*, and distinguish it from other dayes but by mere abstaining from their daily labours, which is not a *Holy* & sanctified rest, but a *Sabbath* of Beasts and not of men: There be strangers enough that have travailed those Countries, that can bear witness to this sad Trueth and seriously lament it: But perhaps you mean another sort of *conversion*, to wit, to *Popery*, and herein we can beare you witness that many hundreds have been *converted* since you came to Raigne and since the Ministers have been cast out, who did carefully guard their Flocks from *Romish Wolves*, and *Foxes*: For these have made as great a Harvest in those parts (of late) as you have; and do seduce as fast as you: we heare of whole Parishes fallen off that way: For the people of *Wales* (in the generall) have so much aversnes to your *loose* and *fanatick* waies, that they choose rather to go to *Rome* then to *Bedlam*, And for this reason I know none that are greater Enemies to the said Petition and restitution of the able Ministers, than the *Papists* and your self.

Sabbatum aurei vituli.

4 For your Character of the *Commissioners* that *most of them are really Godly*, we will not gainsay you, but wish they may approove themselves so, when their Actions shall be scanned; yet that many of them had their judgements captivated by fair pretences, and been seduced to go along with you,

appeares by their ſerious remorſe and retractations, which we have touched before: *Praſtat recurrere quàm malè currere*; and I wiſh the reſt would be ſo *godly* as to follow ſo good a preſident.

But that *none* of them have taken any of the *Church Revenue* into their hands, I think you will not be a *Compurgator* for any of them, we can tell you of one Commiſſioner that reſolved not to *Act or concurre* with you in the extirpation of the Miniſtry, if he might not have ſome Tithes into his hands: *he would not be evill for nought*, or ſell his conſcience for nothing; and accordingly he hath been a parſon of two good Benefices ever ſince: we can name others, that have *bought lands* and *built houſes*, ſince they had the handling of theſe *Revenues*, who (before times) were ſo low, that they never had ſuch immodeſt hopes as to amend themſelves *ſo well*, and *ſo faſt* as they have done.

5 Having uſed your *Target*, to defend your Commiſſioners, you now draw your *ſword*, againſt your formidable Enemies, (thoſe *Things in black*, the Miniſters) whom you have routed and rooted out. *They were* (ſay you) *moſt of them* either *Un-preaching Curats, or ſcandalous men in their lives, or had adminiſtred ſome accurſed oath to the people.*

But in ſober ſadneſſe *Sir*, did you eject none elſe? we could name you *hundreds*, that you have deprived the Church of God of the benefit and comfort of their labours, that had neither adminiſtred any *oathes*, neither were *Un preaching Curats*, nor were any way *ſcandalous in their lives.* But their lives and labours did expreſſe as much *power of godlineſs*

lineſs (quietly in their proper ſpheares) as any of your *tinkling cymballs* or *wandring and fooliſh fires*. If the Parliament were pleaſed to *goe down* (that is in their power and authority, to thoſe Countries) and ſee *whether you have done altogether according to the crie of it which is come up unto them*; If they were pleaſed to grant Commiſſions to examin who and what perſons you have caſt out of gods vineyard, and upon what ſcore; your actions would appear as odious to all the world, as now they doe to them that know you. It ſeemes you had not room, and ſcope enough to rule, except like the great *Ottoman*, you killed all your *Brothers*, that you might rule and reign alone. Gen. 19.21.

6 But *for to ſatisfie all honeſt men, and to ſhame your Adverſaries*, you promiſe an *exact account from* South-Wales. If you deſire to *ſatisfie the one*, or to *ſhame the other*, let mee adviſe you as a friend not to ſmoother your Accounts, but let men ſee them, and ſee how you have diſpoſed of neer 20000l. *per annum* for two years and a half. For if your Accounts muſt be received onely in groſſe, *without the particulars*, received by an *implicit faith* without farther examination, (as wee hear they muſt) you and your friends may paſſe for *Godly* men ſtill.

Howſoever, the Petitioners doe humbly conceive that they have performed the office of honeſt and faithfull men to the *State*, in preſenting to their notice and cognizance, what a vaſt Revenue they have been *defrauded* of, & are like to be ſtil *defeated*, and they ſeem to all indifferent, and dis-intereſſed

persons, to deserve *thanks* from the State, and *countenance* and *encouragement*, against all affronts: For if they miscarrie in this petition, and their hopes be blasted therein, they resolve to make no such attempts any more; but will study to serve the Parliament, in some more *acceptable* way.

7 But in the next *Paragraph* you tell us of the Ministers, and *School-masters* of *North Wales*, with their number and qualitie, as though you had been at a late *muster* of them; indeed the Scean of your discourse lyes most in that countrey; this is lapwing-like to crie farr from the nest: you give an account of *North-Wales*, to confute a Petition from *South-Wales*. Here you are out of the reach of my pen, because the places are out of the road of my acquaintance. But for your *School masters* in *North-Wales* if they be like those you have placed in *South-Wales*, they are fitter to *goe to School*, then to *keep any*, as the countryes are most deeply sensible thereof.

8 But here is some good newes from *Flintshire*, *Here are but two Ministers ejected in all*; truely they had better luck then their fellowes, we can tell you of some other Counties (in lieu of this) where you have not left above two to stand in all; and of others, where you have not allowed of above, 3 or 4 Itinerants to instruct neer three score and ten parishes, some whereof are very large and populous and were supplied (lately) with very able godly Ministers, that had been trained up in the *Schooles of the Prophets*, and were skilfull in dividing the word of god aright, and were instruments of conveying good-

goodneſſe and grace to many a poor ſoul in their reſpective charges: for by my vicinitie to thoſe countryes and my often ſallies upon occaſion to thoſe parts, I have reaſon to know them well.

But the Itinerants that are come in their roome, are ſuch men, that though they preſume *to be Teachers, yet have need to be taught themſelves, which are the firſt principles of the oracles of God*: and if men had a deſigne to bring preaching into contempt and deriſion, they could not have thought of a more effectuall courſe, then by *ſetting* up ſuch men to preach: for they have ſet up ſuch *mock-teachers* that will be glad of 10l. *perannum*, though their Maſters may ſet upon their ſcore large reckonings to be accounted to the State, as they will doe for their School-maſters likewiſe.

But how well contented men are with your *Propagation* in *North-Wales* may appear by this enſuing *preſentment* made by the *Grand-Jury* of *Montgomery-ſhire* at the laſt great Seſſions held for that County.

The preſentment of *Montgomery-ſhire* was as following. *April*, 1. 1652.

WEE the *Grand Jury* of the County of *Montgomery* being upon our oathes, doe diſcover and repreſent to your Lordſhips, the complaints and aggrevances thereof. In the firſt place out of our duty to Almighty God, and in obedience to the preſent Government, we make bold to ſignifie to your Lordſhips, that the *moſt Generall* and allmoſt

moſt *univerſall* complaint amongſt us is the want of able Miniſters to ſupply our pariſh Churches being 47, which are left vacant upon the Lords day, without any known preacher to officiat in them; But in lieu of the ſaid 47 (and moſt of the reſt lately queſtioned) there are a few illiterate poor Tradeſmen, ſet up and countenanced, (without any juſt pretence, or fitting qualifications) to inſtruct the Congregations, ſo that by meanes hereof the goſpell (as we conceive) is ſo farr from being Viſibly *propagated* among us, according to the meaning of the late *Act*, that it is much feared, (if a remedy be not timely applied) it is rather in a way of *declining*; which wee crave your Lordſhips aſſiſtance, ſeaſonably to prevent. *Ga. Win,* } Two foremen of
Will. Kyffin, &c. } the *Grand-Jury*

We could produce the like (if need were) from *Denbighſhire*, put up at the Great Seſſions held for that County at the ſame time.

You conclude with Tithes (that *delicate morſell* which is fit for the mouths of your creatures onely) which you tell us were and ſtill are tendred to the Pariſhioners; But they have a kind of an odd *ſqueamiſh* conſcience, that few of them will meddle with them as you complain: You made an *Order* of late (as I am told) ſince this Petition was ſet on foot, to make offer of the Tithes to the Pariſhioners to avoyd envie and exclamations; Before that, none but your *Favorits* muſt *eat of the holy things* and *live of the altar*. The poor *ejected Parſons* muſt have no ſhare nor portion in them, though they offered more rent than any others payed for them, an

offered

offered good ſecurity for the payment. But wee need not marvell that they could not have their Tithes, when they could not have their *Glebes* upon rent, nay their very ſifts denied them, though allowed by the *Act* for Propagation, which being accounted according to the undervaluations made by the Sequeſtrators and their Agents, will appear to be ſo ſmall an allowance, to maintain a family, that it will not find them bread and water; and yet this pittifull pittance cannot be received or obtained, without many a tedious wearisome journey, and much expence, and hazard of mens lives: As ſome have periſhed in the waters, by going to Petition and ſeek relief for their periſhing families; And others being wearied out with fruitleſſe journeys, and dilatory anſwers, have given over all Adreſſes to theſe Un-mercifull Sequeſtrators and other Officers, to powre out their Complaints before the All-ſeeing God; who graciouſly heard the groanes of his people in *Egypt*, *Exod.* 2.13. and the voice of the poor ladd, weeping under the tree, *Gen.* 21.17.

To gain beleef to what you have affirmed in your Epiſtle, you cloſe it up, and ſeal it with a deep *Aſſeveration* and engagement. Truely *Proteſts* and *Aſſeverations* weigh but litle with me, ſince you have applied them to *untruths* heretofore, and that in the pulpit; you may remember where and when you *proteſted* to the congregation, that you never received any recompence for your pains in preaching. But there was one preſent, that helped your memory to remember what a round ſumm you received at *Brecon*, for one *worm-wood-*

wth you made against al the Ministers of that county. There are some also that can remember you, how much of the *Fee-farm Rents* of the late king you have purchased in *Radnor-shire* and elsewhere, and they are sure that it was not your fathers inheritance, but some other wayes (of *gainefull goodliness*) that have enabled you to make these purchases. Therefore Sir, be more cautious hereafter, how you make the like protestations, but let them be according to the rule, in *justice, judgement* and *truth*, *Jer.4.2.*

God give you grace to see, and a heart to feel and grieve for the ruin that you have brought upon the Church of God in those parts, and the contempt that you have brought upon his *Ministers* and *Ordinances*: For though we stand in an indifferent good posture as yet, in this *County*, yet the fire being in our neighbours house we may justly fear our own, and suspect the like *Propagation of the Gospell* here, as we have seen there; For though you have begun with the out-skirts and Suburbs (as it were) of this Nation, yet we find now that the Design is generall, as appeares by a Letter from *Herefordshire* inserted, some weeks since, in the weekly Diurnall, and subscribed *M. H.* the Pen-man whereof was not a *Mile* from a *Hill*; And also by the *Propositions* sent in by some of your Party to the *Committee for the propagation of the Gospell*, and printed in one of the late Diurnalls; whereby any man that hath but half an eye may see, that this *Mystery* that goes under the specious name and title of the *Propagation of the Gospell*, begins to worke strongly in other parts of this Nation, and to creep from the Circumference

cumference to the Center of the Common-wealth; but let men look well about them, and learn to be wise at other mens cost: Let the present deplorable condition of *Wales*, move men both to *resent* their neighbours miseries, and to *prevent* their own.

Dated from my house neer Hereford, *the 26 of* May: *in the Third year of the Abrogation of the Gospell in* Wales.

For Mr. *Valvasor Powel* one of the Itineraries of *Wales*.

Sir,

YOu were soon induced upon other mens Relations, to misinform your self, of some Challenge tendred by me against you and your preachers; But as your informers were Cretians *in their suggestion, so it is dangerous* Cretizare cum Cretensibus; *you should rather have bin Cautelous in your Credulity, Observing* Pauls *Command,* ἐλέγχειν ἐπιτιμᾶν, *to* Rebuke them sharplie, *for they deserved it, accusing me unjustlie, of what I was not then Guiltie. If you would deign to be remembred in the Character of Christianity, and the true Cognizance of Christs Souldier, The Apostle tells you,* The servant of the Lord must not strive, *but* be Gentle to all men, apt to Teach, patient. *Being a servant he should imitate his Master, and the* Master is not the Author of Confusion, but of Peace. Qui litigat verbis, pugnat, *a barking tongue is a striking hand. How Cruellie the Ministers of Wales are and have*

Tit. 1. 13.

2. Tim. 2. 24.

bin used, their good names murthered, their very Calling accounted a Crime, and Mission their Ruine, exposed like those disguised Primitive Christians in Beares and Lions skins, for the baiting and tearing of Dogs; I am sure your unsavory Invectives against us (being rather Satyres than Sermons) are sufficient Testimonies thereof. And now I find that Aspis à vipetâ sumit venenum, The minor Preachers (if they may be called preachers) borrow their language & virulency from you, As the minor greek Poets are said to lick up the vomit of blind Homer. In respect of my self, I shall passe by such Reproaches, remembring therein the Result of the School-men, That Abuses are to be Remitted, that are injurious towards mens Persons not only quoad Rancorem, in respect of the Malice, but also quod Satisfactionem, in respect of the Redresse. But Abuses which Concern our Offices, touch both the Author entrusting, and the trust Committed to our Charge: And wee have our Saviours direction, in the eighth of John, to maintain (as there he did) the Truth of our Profession. Neglecting then, That you fell upon my Person in my absence, both at Glasebury and the Hay, which was neither Candidelie nor Christianlie performed; I shall (as I promised you, (upon your own Challenge and wonted manner of Vanity and bragging) together with one or two of my brethren, be Readie (with Gods assistance) to meet you and the like number of yours any time, after the end of Trinity term next, either in the University of Oxford, or in any place within ten Miles of my aboad: Sooner I cannot, because of many journeyes, and Occasions which I am necessitated to perform. And will then

endeavour

endeavour to Maintain theſe enſuing Poſitions.

1. *The* Neceſſity of Baptiſm, *Neceſſitate præcepti*, and the lawfulneſſe of Pædobaptiſm.
2. That the Miniſtrie of England is according to Divine inſtitution.
3. That our Doctrine is Orthodoxe; being willing to Hear, what Errours we have broached, Or what Truths have bin Revealed by you, or unto you, which we have not formerly taught and known.
4. That your Separation was Cauſleſs, and unwarrantable.

Which as farr as I can remember were the ſumm of thoſe Queſtions propoſed, that I would maintain. And though your defiance was (as I partlie heard, and more fullie underſtood by others) very high againſt all the Miniſters of this Nation, the Fathers of Iſrael, *judging them as* Zuinglius *did* Carolſtadius, (Non ſatis humerorum habere) *too weak to undertake the defence of Truth; yet I doubt not but having gathered our ſtones from the brook of Gods word, we ſhall be able with the ſling of his Spirit to encounter the fiereenes of your* haughtineſs, *And reſiſt all your ſhafts, draw them foorth from what Quiver you pleaſe, though you accounted your ſelf a Triform'd* Geryon *in the Languages. Commend not in your ſelf, what you uſe to* condemn *in others, to wit learning.*

—— Proprio Laus ſordet in Ore.

Thus having for a long time patientlie born your ſeverall reproaches, and revilings, ſtill expecting the

Lords

Lords good will and pleasure, Wee are at last perswaded in our souls by his blessed spirit, That his name *must be glorified by us in earnestlie* Contending with you for the Faith once delivered to the saints: *And so resolved with Gods help and blessing, to vindicate our innocency and Calling, with the spirit of Meeknesse, and of Mildnesse, as it becometh true Christians, and the temper of Christs Gospell, for wee cannot put up your affronts, and slaunders any longer.* Nihil veritas erubescit, nisi solummodò abscondi, *Truth never blusheth, but when it is silenced; Wee have in* Modestie *spared you too long, Couching like* Issachars *Asse under our burthens; Now expect us like the* lawrell, *bearing up the more, the more weight you lay upon us. And assure your self, wee shall (God willing) display you in livelyer Colours, than ever you have mishaped others. Therefore trample no longer on these whom you have ruined, as* Diogenes *did upon* Plato's *Cloathes, with greater Pride, than ever* Plato *wore them.*

Trulie the Zeal of Gods Cause, the Cause of Christs Gospell, doth even Ravish and inflame mee.

—— Nam quis iniquæ,
Tam patiens urbæ, tam ferreus ut teneat se?

Who can be silent, to see a whole Nation (a Nation Converted to Christianity, assoon almost as our Saviour *suffered) so notoriouslie branded by their own* Natives: *for* Ignorance, Heathenism, *and* Profanes, *as you have done for your own ambition & self-ends, which the World hath now sufficientlie discovered: As though* Wales *were still a* land of Darkness, *the poor inhabitants as yet Continuing in the* Region *and* shadow of Death. Pudet

..... Pudet patriæ te, patriamque tui

You have had a prime hand in this Aſperſion, being not onely injurious to the Nation, to the Apoſtolicall *Martyrs, and firſt* Planters *of Religion here among us, but to divers moſt painfull and Reverend Miniſters therein, of later times; And now do Arrogate to your ſelf the* Propagation *of the Goſpel therein, with the utter Ruine and* Abrogation *thereof: witneſſe what Superſtition and* Popery *is allready Crept in among us, ſince our Ejectment, as is ſenſiblie diſcovered by three pariſhes in* Brecknock-*ſhire; Such are the effects of this your* Apoſtolicall *Propagation. And How can it be otherwiſe? My heart bleeds to ſee ſo many hundred ſouls within this Pariſh (I paſſe by greater pariſhes) whereof I was late* Vicar *fainting and ſcattred abroad like ſheep without a ſhepheard; having neither the comfort of Preaching, nor Praying, nor Sacraments, nor viſiting of the ſick, nor of any Decency of Buriall; your Preachers being ſo divided in their Opinions, that the good people are at a ſtand, being whollie dejected, and as much as in you lieth,* Anathematized *from the* Communion *of Saints, and all Church-fellowſhips, as men unchurched, and unchriſtend, and (in your Repute) meer* Pagans *and* Heathens; *For you Account all* fixed *parochiall Congregations to be ſuch,* uncalled, *and without the* Pale *of Chriſts Church: but I muſt tell you they have learnt Chriſt far better, being Conſtantlie taught to my knowledge theſe twelve years twice every Lords day: for many of us have laboured more abundantly than you all,* yet not wee. *And now you ſuperſtruct* Hay *and* ſtubble *upon* our labours: *wee praiſe not our ſelves,*

Math. 9. 36.

1 Cor. 15. 16.

ſelves, but theſe pretious ſouls are our Epiſtles written in our hearts, *for whoſe ſpiritual Condition (at this preſent) wee moſt heartily greive and lament.*

What doth not your Conſcience accuſe you? Is it ſeared up with a hot-iron? do not you hear the groans of many thouſand Souls teſtifying againſt you?

Doth not the truth of that moſt Chriſtian, Charitable, *and* Pious *Petition of* South-Wales, *ſtartle you in your ſleep, and affrighten you in the Pulpit? which in all your meetings you ſo much rayl againſt, becauſe it diſcovers your* Hipocriſie, Covetouſnes, *and* Self-ends *to the World.*

With what impudencie dare you Revile the ſame, being ſo Graciouſly received by the Honorable Houſe of Parliament? *And there, upon ſolemn Debate,* Ordered *and* Committed *to further examination?*

Is this your Obedience? *to diſcountenance their Actions, and to deter ſo many thouſands from Petitioning thoſe* Wiſe *and* Grave Patriots *of this Nation who are aſſembled for the hearing and redreſſing of the ſeverall Abuſes and Greivances of this* Common wealth?

Nay with what Divinity *or* Morall *honeſty durſt you, with your Fanatick Raptures in your Sermon before the Judges the laſt* Aſſiſes *for this County of* Radnor, *revile and Curſe that moſt valiant and worthy Commander* Collonel Freeman *in his perſon and in his place, for preferring the ſaid* Petition? *Doth this become the Miniſter of Chriſt, the Propagator of the Goſpell in* Wales? *You forget our Saviours Rule,* Bleſſe them that perſecute you, bleſſe I ſay and curſe not. *Surely this your ſtorming, and Indignation, and*

great

great Industry, in travayling from County to County, and from Parish to Parish, to threaten the Petitioners and Subscribers (in your Sermons) with Sequestration and Ruine, and Stigmatizing *them as* prophane *persons*, Malignants, *a* Cavalliering party, *and meer* Incendiaries *of the State, Is like* Sanballat's *the* Horonite's *dealings with good* Nehemiah *to terrifie him from Re-edifying* Jerusalem, *and of the Inhabitants of* Samaria *in discouraging* Zorobabel *from Re-edifying the* Temple: *Read* Ezra 4. 11. *and* Nehemiah *the first, where you have your* Parallells. *This plainly argueth that you are not* Parliament proof, *and that your Actions will not abide the* Test, *and Examination of* Publike *light. For if the* Petition *be false, the blame and shame will recoyl upon the* Contrivers *and* Presenters *of the same: But if it be true, they have done the* Parliament *good service in giving them intelligence of your practices and proceedings in these* Remoter *parts of the* Commonwealth, *far from their sight and cognizance, and in giving them warning how far to trust such men as you again; who under colour of* Religion *and* Sanctity *do drive on* Politick *and* Worldly *Interests: For such* Light-Heads *as you are (unles timely discovered and prevented) will become not only the Brand of the Church, but also the Bane of this* Common-wealth. *But I leave you to your circuits, wishing you to search your heart, which is not right in the sight of God, for you are in the very* Gall of bitterness, *of which Repent, and* Pray God if perhaps the Thoughts of your Heart, and Words of your Mouth may be forgiven you; *And I beseech*

God that he would be pleased in his mercy to unite all Differences, and compose all Divisions within this Nation, That we may all with one Heart, and one Mind, endeavour to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace. *Expecting your Answer for the place of meeting, I must in Charity commend you to Gods Grace, who (in mine own opinion) being the unworthyest* Ejected *Minister of Christ Jesus, in* South-Wales,

Am in all humility most ready not only to be bound, but to die for the name of Christ, the lawfullness, and Necessity of Baptism, the Right of our calling, and the Truth of our Doctrine.

ALEX: GRIFFITH.

Glasbury 9th. May 1652.

The

The Petition (before mentioned) was presented to the Honorable House of Parliament the 16th. day of *March* 1651. by the hands of Colloncl *Ed. Freeman*, the States Atorney-Generall for *South-Wales*, being accompanied by some select Gentlemen out of the severall Counties.

The House being informed that divers Petitioners of South-Wales *were at the dore, they were called in, and* Coll. Freeman *being come to the Barr, delivered a short Speech to this effect.*

Mr. Speaker,

IT was the desire of many of the well-affected *Gentry*, and other *Inhabitants* of *South-Wales*, that I should present to your grave Consideration, this *Petition*, and withall humbly to beg, you will be pleased

to believe they desire not to bring in any *Scandalous ejected Ministers*, (as some out of prejudice to the Petition do suggest) But such as this honorable House shall approve of, and only such, shall be most gratefully entertained by them.

A Soul-saving necessity hath constrained them to this humble Address, who for above two yeares last past have lived in darknes, the *Light* of the *Gospell* being almost exstinguished, shining only in some few corners of the Country, and ingrossed into *particular distinct Congregations*, which are not above four or five in most Counties in *South-Wales*, and how four or five *Itineraries* can supply a whole County, most of the Counties consisting of eighty or a hundred Parishes, is humbly left to your Honours grave *consideration*. The *Inhabitants* of *South-Wales* are not only destitute of a convenient number of *Ministers*, but also of able *Schoolmasters*, to the decay of *Religion* and *Learning*. And nevertheles, the vast Revenue of the outed Clergy, and all sequestered *Tithes*, *Impropriations*, *Glebes*, and other *Ecclesiasticall Livings*,

Livings (amounting to a great value is) receiv-ed by particular persons deriving Authority from the Act of the two and twentieth of *February* 1649. which was really intended by this Honorable House for the true *Propagation of the Gospell*, who doe Lett and Sett out the same, to *Friends*, *Creatures* and *Alliance* of their own, at *extraordinary under-values* to the prejudice of the *State*, and the gain of private persons.

Mr. Speaker,

This innocent Petition hath no designe in it against the *Common-wealth*, or any particular persons; All that the Petitioners crave from this *Honorable House*, is a convenient number of *able Godly Teachers and Schoolmasters*, such as you shall approve of: And an *Account* for the Profits and Revenues of the Churches received for these two last yeares.

As we aim herein at the *Glory of God and the Publike good*, so *let God bless us and give a Gracious issue to our humble Desires*.

The Petitioners being withdrawn, the Petition was read, and Intituled *The humble Petition of ſeverall of the Inhabitants of the ſix Counties of* South-Wales *and County of* Munmouth, *well-affected to the* Parliament *and* preſent Government, *on the behalf of themſelves and the reſt of the Inhabitants there, Subſcribed by many thouſands.*

Whereupon

Whereupon the house ordered it should be referred to a Committee.

Resolved by *the Parliament*, That it be referred to the *Committee* of *plunderd Ministers*, to examine this busines, and to State the matter of *fact*, and *report* their *opinions* therein to the *House*, with power to the same *Committee* to send for persons, papers, and witnes.

Resolved by the *Parliament*, That the same *Committee* have power to examin upon oath, and to authorize such *Commissioners* in